



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Dear Friends:

Volunteerism, community service and neighbor helping neighbor are cornerstones of Kentucky culture. This part of our heritage is especially important during the socio-economic challenges all citizens continue to face. During the past year, many compassionate Kentuckians came together to meet the resulting needs and overcome hardships.

Since 1994, we annually recognize extraordinary Kentuckians who, like their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents before them, humbly and quietly achieve greatness through selfless service to others without expectation of reward or commendation. This spring, the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service will be presented to another group of Kentuckians who exemplify the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor.

Nominations are now being sought for the 2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service. Please accept this invitation to participate by nominating one or more deserving individuals or groups -- adults or youth -- for the volunteerism and service awards.

A special First Lady's Award has been added to honor a Kentuckian that has gone the extra mile to assist youth at-risk of dropping out of high school. This award complements the First Lady's Graduate Kentucky plan supporting education initiatives across the commonwealth and named as one of the top five highlights of the First Lady's service in 2010.

More award information is enclosed, including criteria for each award category. Information and nomination forms are also available at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov. If you have any questions, please contact the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service at (800) 239-7404 or by e-mail at kccvs@ky.gov.

Thank you for joining us to recognize our fellow Kentuckians who personify the spirit of volunteerism and community service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven L. Beshear".

Steven L. Beshear

2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service

General Information and Category Criteria

The Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service, administered by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, celebrates the volunteer efforts of thousands of Kentuckians. The 2010 awards will be presented at a ceremony in spring 2011.

Eligibility

- Individuals and groups may be nominated in only **one** category. Self-nominations are accepted.
- Members and staff of the KCCVS, its awards committee and judges are not eligible to nominate or be nominated.
- Individuals or groups who volunteer as part of work-release and/or for course credit are eligible. However, they may not receive compensation other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses to be eligible for this awards program.
- Programs using "living allowances," (such as AmeriCorps) are eligible.
- A member of National Service programs in Kentucky (e.g. AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps programs such as RSVP, FGP and SCP) is eligible only in the National Service category.
- Governor's Award recipients from the previous five years are ineligible for the 2010 awards program. A list of the previous award recipients can be found on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.
- With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Volunteer Coordinator Award, nominations must **focus** on service activities that occurred in 2010.
- With the exception of the Kentucky Ambassador Award, volunteer service must have been performed in **Kentucky**, serving primarily Kentuckians.

Judging

- A panel of judges with significant experience in volunteerism and/or service carefully reviews every application.
- In the event a nominee is submitted multiple times, the judging panel will consider the average score of all nominations.
- Staff reserves the right to reassign a nomination to a more appropriate category. (Nominators will be contacted for approval.)
- Judges may opt not to issue awards in every category.
- Award winners are based on the highest average scores out of 100 possible points.
- Points will be deducted for incomplete nomination forms, narratives that exceed the word count and/or improper attachments are submitted.
- Decisions of judges are final.

General Information

- The nomination form and other information is available on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.
- Information from nominations may be released to the media and elected officials.
- Nomination packets must be **received** by close of business, 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time (3:30 p.m. Central Time) on **Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011**. No exceptions will be made.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) administers Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs. The Commission is a statewide, bipartisan group comprised of 25 members, appointed by the governor, with diverse service and volunteerism backgrounds. The KCCVS actively engages citizens in community service opportunities that enable volunteers, organizations and businesses to share ideas and effectively collaborate to address Kentucky's needs. In addition to the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service, the KCCVS also hosts a number of annual statewide activities designed to facilitate the development of volunteers and program staff. KCCVS funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Kentucky General Assembly.

Awards Categories and Criteria

Please read carefully – award categories and criteria have changed.

Senior Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes an individual (ages 65 and older) who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominee may have demonstrated exceptional ability and have made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of service efforts.

Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes an individual who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominee may have demonstrated exceptional ability and have made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of service efforts.

Youth Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a youth (age 18 or younger) who has demonstrated significant contributions to volunteer efforts/programs. The nominee may serve as a model and inspiration to other volunteers.

Group Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a group of individuals or organizations who come together on their own to make a difference in their community. This may be a one-time service project or ongoing effort.

Challenge Award: Recognizes an individual who has overcome significant personal obstacles in order to engage in volunteer service. These obstacles may include anything from physical and/or mental challenges to significant time constraints.

Volunteer Coordinator Award: Recognizes a paid or volunteer manager who exemplifies solid volunteer management skills, such as in volunteer training, risk management, screening, recognition, evaluation and retention of volunteers.

National Service Award: Recognizes an individual member and/or group of members of a National Service program (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC or Senior Service Corps) who have demonstrated service beyond standard expectations of the designated program. This individual and/or group is an extraordinary example of the AmeriCorps spirit.

Corporate Award: Recognizes a business that has made a substantial impact through innovation, volunteer hours, number of volunteers, monetary support, etc. This may recognize the historical record of supporting volunteerism through policies and practices. The nomination must be able to demonstrate ongoing community or statewide impact.

Nonprofit Organization Award: Recognizes a nonprofit organization that manages an exceptional volunteer program that has made a significant impact on the community.

Faith-Based Group Award: Recognizes a group that volunteers through a faith-based community organization. The group may serve members of or populations outside the service-sponsoring faith community. The nomination must demonstrate significant volunteer outreach.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Recognizes a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community service at a variety of levels. Nominees must have made a substantial and sustained impact in the community as a result of their service efforts.

Kentucky Ambassador Award: Recognizes a Kentuckian whose primary volunteer service is outside of Kentucky and/or the United States. A Kentucky Ambassador nominee must have provided outstanding volunteer service and through this service, promoted Kentucky as a *Commonwealth of Caring*.

(NEW) First Lady's Award: Recognizes a Kentuckian that has gone out of his or her way to assist youth in their efforts to graduate from high school. This may have been done through mentoring, time spent tutoring or advising a student in need of assistance or by working directly with a school to help children gain their diplomas.